

# Friendship

1989

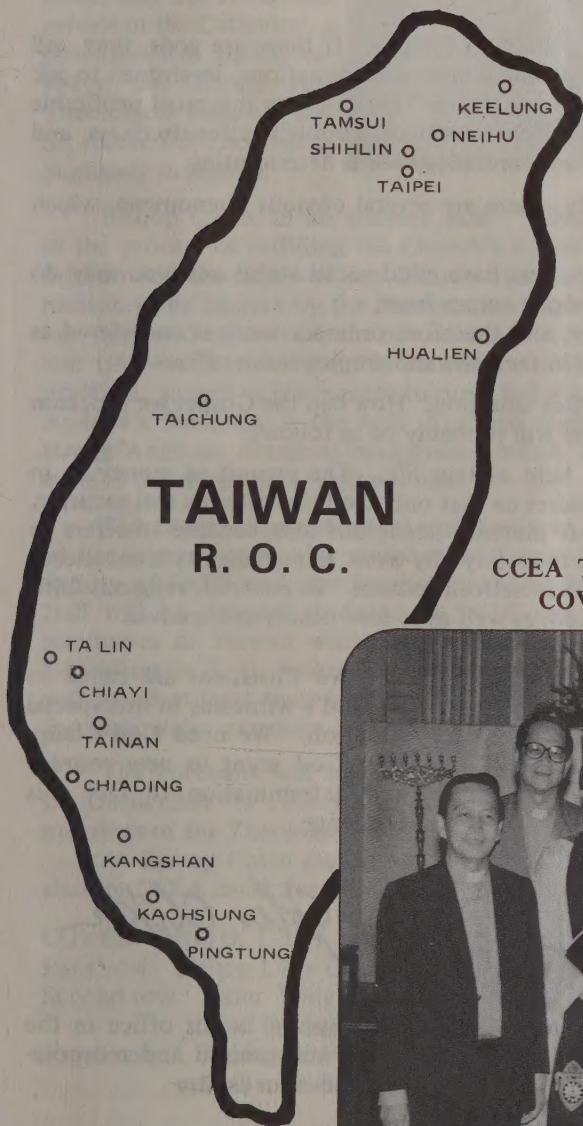
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TAIWAN  
R. O. C.

CCEA THEOLOGICAL COMMISSION AT  
COVENANT SIGNING IN TAIPEI





## BISHOP'S MESSAGE

Religions are flourishing in Taiwan — though Christianity remains static. Most shops and houses have a small shrine in the main room and temples are fast increasing in number.

Chinese people are very pragmatic and flexible in the matter of religious faith. It is said that those who are well-off in political careers tend to be faithful Confucianists, but when they fall from favour they will switch to Taoism, which will help them accept the realities of human life. And when they are about to die, they will turn to Buddhism, because it will help with problems after this life.

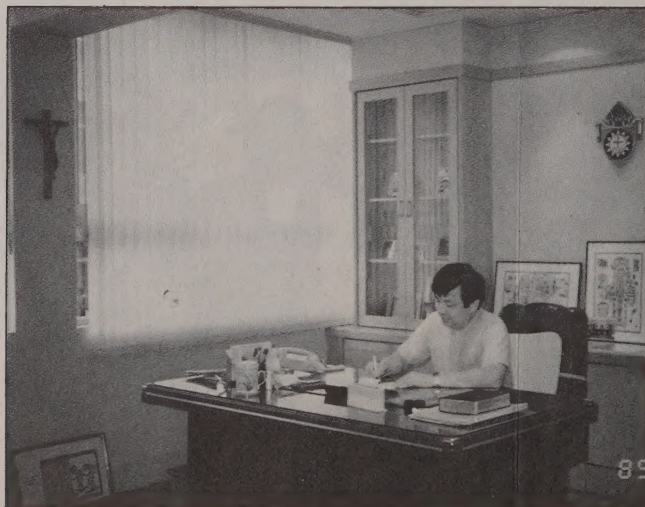
Religion is also regarded as a way of making a fortune. If there are gods, they will answer whatever people ask. This is why people come, with donations, to shrines to ask for lucky numbers for their gambling. People say that in Taiwan today it is most profitable to set up a temple or shrine. Religion therefore reinforces people's selfcentredness, and in consequence they become selfish. This is why morality here is deteriorating.

In this kind of money-oriented society, there are several obvious phenomena, which are prevalent in Taiwan society:

1. Money is everything. If you have money, you have good social status and you may do whatever you like, no matter where the money comes from.
2. Everybody wants to become rich quickly, and therefore ordinary work is considered as worthless. There are shortages of workers in factories and employees in offices.

How can we as Christians respond to this situation? How can the Gospel we proclaim relate to the whole of life here? Our response will probably be as follows:

1. Money is not everything, though it can help sustain life. The pursuit of money is, in fact, a pursuit of security. The Gospel assures us that only God can offer us real security.
2. Work is necessary, not just to satisfy our material needs but also because it offers us chances to use our potential to contribute to society. By work, human dignity is enhanced.
3. Religious faith is not to be used to reinforce selfcentredness. In contrast, religious faith helps us do the will of God, and to love God, as well as to love others as ourselves.



We Christians are called to be God's witnesses in this special situation. We need God's help. May God grant us new courage and determination to face this challenge.

*+ John Clark*

The Bishop in his office in the newly reorganised and redecorated Diocesan Centre



## THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

### COVENANT

In the last week of May the Theological Commission of the Council of the Church in East Asia (CCEA) held a conference in Taipei. During this meeting an event of great significance took place.

On the Sunday afternoon, May 28, at a special service in the Cathedral, a covenant was signed between our Trinity Hall Theological Institute and St Andrew's Theological Seminary in Manila.



Bishop Chien, in his address, said: "Theological education plays a very significant role in the process of fulfilling the Church's mission. It will determine the shape of our Church mission and the frame of our Church. In the last 30 years we have sent most of our seminarians to be trained by the Presbyterian seminaries. For this we are very grateful. But it is our wish and vision to train our students in the context of Anglican tradition and hope it will then be easy for them to identify with the needs of the local churches. Yet it is impractical as well as inadequate to run a fully-fledged seminary for such a small diocese. . St. Andrew's Seminary is the only Anglican seminary in South East Asia, and it has a very strong Anglican liturgical background which will be very beneficial to our students, and even to the clergy here, in the future."

The covenant provides that each institute may be represented on the board of governors of the other, that faculty members of Trinity Hall will be deemed associate members of the faculty of SATS and that faculty exchanges be encouraged. Similarly, students of Trinity Hall will be deemed students of SATS and all courses done at Trinity Hall and other seminaries in Taiwan which are accredited members of the Association for Theological Education in S. E. Asia will count towards degrees from SATS. In addition, all students will spend at least their last six months in residence at SATS, where provision will be made for their wider exposure to Philippine life and the work of the Church in that part of Asia.

The covenant was signed by the Rev. Dr. Henry Kiley (left) for SATS and the Rev. Dr. David Chee for Trinity Hall, and witnessed by Bishop Chien, in the presence of the other members of the Theological Commission and quite a large congregation.

As Bishop Chien also said, "This (was) a historic occasion not only for our Diocese but also for CCEA itself, for it is a living expression of Partners in Mission in South East Asia."

### COVER PHOTO, 1. to r.

Back row: Bishop Luke Chhoa (Sabah), Bishop John Chien

Second row: Dean Yong Chen Fah (Sabah), Rev. Dr. David Chee, Rev. Dr. Henry Kiley, Rev. Dr. Michael Poon (Hong Kong)

Front row: Professor Peter Kim (Korea), Rev. Dr. Artemio Zabala (Philippines), Rev. Benjamin Botengan (CCEA Coordinator, Philippines)



## UTO GRANT FOR TAINAN

Now that we have Trinity Hall established in the Diocesan Centre, the next plan is to provide a centre for lay training and theological studies in the southern part of the diocese. For this purpose some existing church property in Tainan is to be used. Originally a Japanese temple, it was converted, after the Japanese left Taiwan, to house St. Michael's Students' Hostel and Chapel and a residence and office for the archdeacon of that time.

The centre is to be used for 2- to 3-day retreats and intensive courses for both laity and clergy. The residence will have some accommodation for visiting speakers, lecturers, students and/or retreatants from outside Tainan. The hostel will also have two rooms set aside for similar use.

There is much to do to prepare the centre. The old office will be made into a class and study room and library, and renovations are also necessary to the accommodation sections. The Bishop is hoping to raise funds for this work from donations.

The United Thank Offering committee has generously granted US\$27,600 towards the repair and decoration of the residence and the purchase of such teaching equipment as an overhead projector, a photocopier, audio-visual equipment and filing cabinets.

## THEOLOGICAL COURSES IN THE SOUTH

Trinity Hall faculty will offer courses in the south, beginning this fall. The Rev. Andrew Huang will lecture on Liturgy and the Rev. David Lai will give an Introduction to the Old Testament. Since the Tainan centre will not be ready for quite some time, these first classes will probably be held in Chiayi, most of the people who have so far expressed interest being in that area. Fr. Jason Ke will discuss with the Prior of the Benedictine monastery there whether we might make use of their classroom facilities.

## THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION SUNDAY

This year it was decided that Trinity Sunday would be an appropriate day to use as an annual occasion for learning about and praying for theological education in our diocese. On the first such day, this year, students from Trinity Hall went out to various churches to share with them their experiences of the Institute. Donations were received towards this work.



Part of Trinity Hall's new classroom with the English section of the library. The books are gradually being put in order and catalogued, after the move during the renovation of the Diocesan Centre.



Early July in Singapore saw the gathering of one hundred clergy and wives from round the world for the 5-yearly meeting of the **World Anglican Chinese Clergy Fellowship Association**. Twelve attended from Taiwan, including four ladies of whom Mrs. Grace Chien was one.

The Bishop commented afterwards that he had never realised there were so many Anglican Chinese clergy in South East Asia. Most of them, he says, are young, energetic and enthusiastic for their mission. The four-day meeting was well-planned, very exciting and inspiring. Our delegates felt very much at home there, since most of those present spoke fluent Mandarin, in which language, too, the meetings were conducted. The unfortunate ones, from this point of view, were the Hong Kong contingent, who understood only about one quarter of the speeches (though, of course, the same written characters are used for Cantonese.)

The Bishop was very impressed with the growth of the Church in Singapore, which he feels is largely due to their lay training programme and good leadership. He brought back copies of their programme to consult when planning our own. When practicable, the Bishop hopes to send one of our clergy to Singapore for a period of special training in this context.

The next meeting of the W.A.C.C.F.A., in 1994, is to be held in Taipei. For the intervening period, Bishop Chien was elected as Chairman, the Rev. David Chee as Secretary and the Rev. Charles Chen as Treasurer.

Here in Taiwan, our diocese organised several shorter meetings for prayer, study and fellowship. The first, in February, was a **Youth Winter Conference**. It was held in the Methodist Centre on Yang Ming Shan. Forty young people from the northern part of the diocese were at this conference, the first such in many years, and experienced its warmth and inspiration.

Twenty-four people attended a 2-day conference on **Vocation** at Hsinpu in June.

July was a very busy time of Summer Camps: —

22-23 at St. John's Cathedral, twenty choristers and organists took part in a **workshop on liturgical music**. It was conducted by Ms. Nancy Sartin with the assistance of Mrs. Amy Chee, Fr. David Chee and Dean Michael Liu.

24-26 at Hsinpu, forty college students and others joined in a study on the theme "Do you still follow Me?" Speakers were some of our clergy, and a special Christian singing and acting group had been invited to give an evening of gospel songs and short Bible plays. This whole camp was a great success.

27-29 A **Family Camp** organised by our Department of Church Women was held at Hsin Chu Presbyterian Bible College. The theme was "The Crossroad of Life" and for the first time the addresses were given not by clergy but by their wives — Mrs.(Michael) Liu and Mrs. (Luke) Chen. Worship, discussion groups and family activities occupied the rest of the time.

31-August 3 The Technical College at Hsinpu accommodated eighty children and younger teenagers for a camp with the theme "Come, follow Me".

## TIEN AN MEN

An event which affected everyone greatly this year was the attack on June 4 on the young pro-democracy demonstrators in Tien An Men square in Peking. On June 8, an annual public holiday in Taiwan, thousands of people attended meetings and services in commemoration of those who had been killed and to show support for their comrades.

The students of our Technical College had planned a dance to celebrate their graduation but, after the Peking tragedy, decided to forego the party. Instead, they joined the very large rally in the grounds of the Chiang Kai Shek Memorial.

That evening, a special service was held at Good Shepherd Church. Several of the northern clergy took part and the address was given by Fr. Paul Denlinger of the Soochow University staff, whose wife is from Peking and has relatives there. The most touching thing about that gathering, according to the Bishop, was that so many of the expatriate congregation attended the service, with obvious sympathy for the Chinese people.



## INTERCHURCH AND INTERFAITH INVOLVEMENT

Following the Lambeth call for a Decade of Evangelism in the 90's, many other churches round the world, and the WCC, have taken up this challenge. In Taiwan an ecumenical evangelistic drive entitled **The Year 2000 Gospel Movement** is to be launched. Bishop Chien is on the planning committee. A high goal has been set – 10% of Taiwan (2 million) to be Christians by the year 2000. At present Taiwan is less than 3% Christian.

We have had two **Ecumenical Prayer Meetings** this year. The first, in January, was in Chiayi, sponsored by St. Peter's Church, where Fr. Jason Ke is in charge, and the Society of the Divine Word (Roman Catholic). Most of the church people of that area took part in the service in St. Peter's, which was a very moving occasion. In April a similar meeting was held in St. John's Cathedral in Taipei. Never before had the Cathedral held so large a crowd for this kind of service. This one was sponsored by the Salvation Army.

At the invitation of the Dean of the (Roman Catholic) **Tien Educational Centre** in Taipei, Bishop Chien went on March 9 to have supper with the priests and brothers there. They were very interested in the subject of women bishops and in the participation of the laity in making church policy. The Centre is a very popular place, being available to the general community for seminars, debates, meetings and so on.

**Indigenisation of Christianity in Taiwan** was the subject discussed at a seminar held at Taiwan University. The Rev. Y. T. Hsia and Canon Samuel Chen attended with the Bishop.

Bishop Chien has been elected to chair two groups, E.C.C. and the Interfaith Association: The **Ecumenical Cooperative Committee** does for Taiwan what a national council of churches does in other countries.

The **Interfaith Association** was begun by the late Bishop James Pong and comprises the major Christian denominations, Buddhists, Taoists and adherents of local folk religions. They meet in Taipei once every two months.

## INVITATIONS TO TAIZE

At a prayer meeting for young Chinese in Taipei, February 19, Bishop Chien met Brother Lucas Ho of the Taize Community in France. Afterwards, he entertained him at home, and they have corresponded since. Brother Roger at Taize has invited the Bishop to do as many Church leaders do and to spend a few days during summer in prayer and discussion with the Brothers and young people there. The Bishop has not been able to fit it in this year but hopes to do so some time in the future.

Also, the Community has offered a place for one of our young people at their Intercontinental Meetings in 1990. In 1988, thousands of young adults from over 100 countries, including such troubled situations as Chile, Haiti, South Africa, Lebanon and the Philippines, took part in the Meetings, and all youth meetings at Taize are now intercontinental.

Invitations are addressed to lay people between the ages of 19 and 27, already committed in the Church and wanting to deepen their life of faith and personal commitment, to spend 3 months or more at the Meetings. After an initial period at Taize, where an inner life is built up by the thrice daily common prayer and meditation, the young people from southern continents go, accompanied by some young Europeans, to spend some time in parishes in Europe. All costs, including travel to and from Europe, are borne by the inviting parishes and a solidarity fund, so that acceptance of the invitation implies a sincere commitment to a spiritual pilgrimage, uninterrupted by studies, tourism, personal visits, etc. The aim is to prepare participants to return as "signs of trust on earth" to strengthen their home churches and communities.



## CLERGY MOVEMENTS

The Rev. Andrew M. T. Huang officially retired in March but is still keeping busy as Dean of the southern churches and chaplain to St. Paul's Clinic in Kaohsiung. He is also continuing to use his expertise in translating, working at present on the liturgy. To mark his retirement and in thanksgiving for his 21 years' service, the Diocese held a special Eucharist on March 29 in St. James', Taichung. It was well attended and a time of happy fellowship. The Bishop expressed to Fr. Huang the gratitude of the Diocese for his translation work as well as for his great support over the years of the financial needs of the Diocese.

The Rev. Luke H. H. Chen has replaced Fr. Huang in charge of the two Kaohsiung churches, St. Paul's and St. Timothy's.

The Rev. Michael R. J. Duh is now taking care of St. Mark's, Pingtung and the kindergarten and small congregation at St. Andrew's, Chading.

The Rev. Matthew W. H. Lee has replaced Fr. Duh at St. Luke's, Hualien.

Deacon Peter C. K. Bow has moved to Tainan to assist in running St. Michael's Hostel.

## IN MEMORIAM

The Reverend Yang Cheng-Hsi (楊承海) passed away on January 30 in Taipei. He was 73 years old and had been retired for a number of years.

Fr. Yang was a member of All Saints', Kangshan, and a member of the Bishop's Committee when he was called to the sacred ministry. After his theological studies and ordination, he was posted first to St. Andrew's, Chading. He later moved back to All Saints', where he continued as priest-in-charge until his retirement. He was a dedicated priest and worked hard. He was responsible for the construction of a 5-floor building, beside the church, which has since served the kindergarten very well.

The Reverend Chu Hsiao-Chung (朱曉忠) was a longtime member of the Cathedral congregation and served for many years on its vestry. In 1985 the late Bishop Cheung made him a deacon (non-stipendiary). During Bishop Chien's two years as dean of the Cathedral, he greatly appreciated the assistance given him by Deacon Chu, who acted as sacristan and vergier and helped in many other ways.

Deacon Chu suffered a long illness and passed away in June.

## ANNIVERSARIES

A memorial service for Bishop James Wong was held in Advent Church, Hsinpu, on April 26, the 19th anniversary of his passing.

September 6 was the second anniversary of the passing of Bishop P. Y. Cheung. This year, Good Shepherd Church decided to name after him the community centre which he dedicated there in 1984. A memorial service was held in the church on September 3, after which the building was named by Mrs. Cheung.

On the same occasion a new tower with illuminated crosses, on top of this building, was dedicated to the memory of Mr. Ivan Ho, who passed away last year. Mrs. Amaranth Ho, who gave the tower, unveiled the name plaque. (This small tower was built because the church, which was designed in the style of the traditional Chinese family house to signify that it is for God's family, is often not recognised as a church.)



## NEWS FROM GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH

Good Shepherd Church continues to be a hive of activity, with Fr. David Chee keeping the bees stirring.

The Chinese congregation now holds an **evangelistic meeting** whenever there is a fifth Sunday. Witnessing, gospel songs and warm fellowship have drawn people from the neighbourhood. Different programmes are being tried out to attract more people to hear the Gospel.

English classes, for children in the early evening and for adults in the daytime, are taken by one of the English congregation and evening classes for adults resumed in September with another. An exciting event occurred on Easter Eve, when one of the 1988 evening students, his wife and two children were all baptised and the two adults were confirmed.

This year, **Good Shepherd kindergarten** received a special pat on the back. With no notice at all, government authorities descended on Taipei's numerous kindergartens for an inspection of their teaching, programmes, equipment, cleanliness and teachers' working conditions. Our kindergarten was very highly commended on all counts and was awarded a prize of NT\$300,000 as one of the three best in Taipei. One of the staff, Miss Yu Min-Tsu, who is particularly concerned with teaching methods, has been granted a Bishop Williams Memorial scholarship for study in Japan and has gone there for eighteen months to learn about new methods. It is such dedication on the part of those in charge that has resulted in the kindergarten's high standard and it is gratifying that their work should be so recognised.

The **Harmony Society** celebrated its 10th anniversary on March 29. This society for social service was started by Fr. Chee. Its members, mostly non-Christian young people, do a stirring job of helping disadvantaged families and children in the area. From the funds donated to the Church for outreach, it receives a modest contribution towards capital costs, but all running costs are borne by the members themselves as their donation to the work, and sometimes they do not even use their outreach grant.

A sad note: This summer **Axel**, elder son of Fr. and Mrs. Chee, had to go to Singapore to complete his schooling there. Fr. Chee is a Singaporean and his sons, having the same citizenship, are obliged to live in Singapore from the age of twelve until after they have completed their military service. Axel is living with his grandmother and is sorely missed by his family here.

No replacement **English Chaplain** has yet been found. There was one letter from Australia expressing interest and a tentative offer from the U.S.A., but nothing definite. A strong suggestion has been made by former warden Tony Price that the search committee investigate the possibility of combining part-time work at Good Shepherd with the establishment of a branch of the Missions to Seamen at the very busy port city of Keelung. Meanwhile, Fr. Graham Ogden nobly continues somehow to fit the interim chaplaincy into his already fulltime job as translations consultant to the United Bible Societies.

Two more families have joined Good Shepherd's 'overseas congregation': **Rick Bock**, ex-vestrymember and choir bass, his wife Cora, stalwart organiser and teacher of the Sunday school, and Roger have been transferred to Melbourne, while **Steve Wickman**, vestry and outreach committee member and the **ONLY** tenor, with Phyllis (valued soprano), Jeremy and Erica, has returned to Washington for the time being.



## TAICHUNG ENGLISH CONGREGATION

St. James' interdenominational congregation is now quite well established, in numbers at least, though it experiences the same turnover of members as Good Shepherd. Services involve a great deal of lay participation in their preparation, in organising preachers and even in the preaching itself. Members who, from time to time, are in Taipei are warmly welcomed at Good Shepherd Church.

With a new American School opened in Kaohsiung in the fall semester — elementary only to begin with but looking forward to expanding upwards — it may be possible soon to have a similar congregation there.

### ABOUT PEOPLE

September saw the temporary departure for Ireland of the Rev. Samuel Lin and his wife Jane. For four years, Fr. Lin has been priest-in-charge of Advent Church at Hsinpu and chaplain of our technical college, and Mrs. Lin has been teaching English there. At the invitation of the Dublin University Far Eastern Mission, and with its financial assistance, Fr. Lin has gone to study for a year at Dublin University, doing a Master in Philosophy course. Mrs. Lin is hoping to spend time with other clergy wives, learning how they cope with their role, and also, if possible, to improve her English teaching skills.

Since his deaconing in June last year and subsequent return to New York, Dn. Philip Wong Yau-Ming has been continuing his studies and assisting in the parish of St. Paul's, North Arlington, in New Jersey. His particular work has been to develop a ministry to the Chinese people in that area. At least fifty households are now busily involved in the activities which Deacon Wong has started — a Saturday children's church school, Bible Study, 'cottage meetings', college student fellowship, a children's choir, classes for candidates for Baptism and Confirmation, and others.

During a visit to the U.S.A. for the House of Bishops meeting in Philadelphia, Bishop Chien, at the request of Bishop Spong of the Diocese of Newark, made a side trip to New York to ordain Deacon Wong to the priesthood. He will continue working at St. Paul's for some time and for this reason he and his family have recently moved to North Arlington.

During the provincial synod of Province VIII (of which we are a part) in Boise, Idaho, a farewell dinner was given on August 31 for Canon Clarence H. Stacy, who is a Canon of our Cathedral. Taiwan Episcopal Church did not send any delegates to this year's synod but, on our behalf, one of the bishops at the dinner presented Canon Stacy with a Nestorian cross and a letter from this diocese wishing him a peaceful, happy and fruitful retirement.

### Visitors:

In April, the Rev. Douglas Phillips and his family spent a two-week holiday revisiting friends and places they knew when they were living here.

Canon Edmund B. Der and Mrs. Der and the Rev. Kenneth Fung and his family made short stopovers here in early July on their way to the WACCFA meeting in Singapore.

Mr. Francis Wong, eldest son of the late Bishop James Wong, called in to see Bishop and Mrs. Chien at the end of July. He was in Taiwan for a short vacation and to visit Advent Church, which is a memorial to his father.



August was a busy month for visitors. First, from New Zealand, came **Mr. Terry Lacy and his wife Margaret**, of the Cathedral parish in Auckland. Mr. Lacy is the honorary vergers there. The Lacy's run a counselling service and are very concerned about the fate of people from Taiwan who are 'assisted' by companies here to migrate to New Zealand – but only as far as the airport. Mr. and Mrs. Lacy have been doing a great deal to help one particular family who, back in March, wrote to Bishop Chien for advice about opportunities in New Zealand and whom the Bishop referred to Canon David Dang in Auckland. The Lacy's also visited Taichung, since the majority of Chinese settlers to New Zealand come from the southern part of the island. They discussed with some of the companies there how migrants could be better assisted, at both ends of their journey.

Then, on August 20, **Tony, Beth and Willie Price** attended Good Shepherd Church for what will probably be the last time for quite a while. The Prices left Good Shepherd parish three years ago but have returned briefly several times since. Now their business has a new branch in Brussels and, having been refused permanent residency in Singapore, they were on their way to settle there.

A few days later, **Mr. Richard T. Corsa** arrived from California. Mr. Corsa, who was in Taiwan for some years with the US army, is writing a book about the Taiwan Episcopal Church, from its beginning in his own home in Taipei. He spent ten days here gathering information to complete his book.

## CONVOCATION ADDRESS

While in Taiwan, Mr. Corsa attended our annual Convocation, to meet delegates and to learn about the Church today. Bishop Chien invited him to speak to the meeting and his address included the following challenge to the Church here:

Upon my arrival in Taichung for the twenty-ninth Convocation of the Episcopal Church, several new friends amicably asked, "Are you an intelligence officer or merely investigating activities in Taichung?" Neither is the case. The purpose of my visit is to seek support for a book. I hope to give witness to forty years of remarkable growth of the Taiwan Episcopal Church from a small cottage group into a cathedral congregation.

In narrative style, I want to tell how laymen and clergy worked unselfishly to assure the material and spiritual growth of the Lord's Church under a government which practises freedom of religion.

Forty years ago there was a small cottage group of Episcopalians that met in Taipei, later in Taichung, and later in Kaohsiung, for corporate worship. After the Japanese Church left Taiwan, there were no clergy, no bishops – laymen only. They picked up where the Japanese had left off, and started our Church again.

Bee Liu Hua, Phillip, rode his bicycle about the city posting red paper signs – "Christians Wanted". Generally, under military law, no group of over ten people could hold a private meeting but this group was permitted to meet in my house for the Service because I was a foreigner with a diplomatic passport.

Our present Chancellor, **Herbert Ma**, was a smart, handsome lad then, much like the youth delegates at this convocation. He alone is the living thread that has bound the Church democratically together from the cottage prayer group, through Bishops Kennedy and Gilson, Wong, Pong and Cheung, and now Bishop Chien.

The pedi-cabs that brought us to church are now replaced by Mercedes cars. Hand fans are being replaced by airconditioning units. The cottage prayer group has changed into a cathedral congregation. The Church's cathedral, clinic, churches, student hostels, parochial schools and college are all witnesses of a Church that has undergone great change.



The Church has been involved in the society of Taiwan. It must be involved. There are also many matters, however, that I feel the Episcopal Church alone has full responsibility for in the spiritual development of its flock. I would like to share these with you.

Hong Kong, in a few years, will become Communist. After that, what will become of the Church within a short time? Under the cloak of "Freedom of worship", the Church will be labeled the 'opiate of people's minds' . . . . the same thing that happened in Shanghai in 1949. It will slowly happen in Hong Kong, starting, perhaps, in 1989.

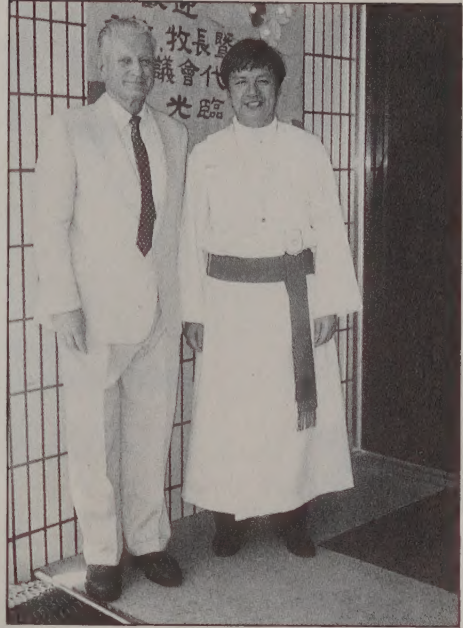
Our youth representative here, Chang Hui-Han, only sixteen years old, entitled to the same single vote as any adult is entitled to, would be prohibited from attending any church function or instruction. All this would be until he is eighteen years old. The little girl who has from time to time come running and searching through the convocation to find her mama would be forbidden to enter, and perhaps her parents would be punished for letting their children hear the Word of God at such a small tender age.

In the United States a very good friend of mine, Bill Chan, died of cancer. Other than some evangelical literature stating that "if you believe in Jesus Christ you will be saved", there was nothing I could find that we could read together. By God's grace, Bill did believe and was already saved. He wanted to hear the Word of God to prepare himself to see our Lord face to face and to be taken into His loving arms.

Two friends of mine from this diocese came to the States and both, unable to cross over into a new culture, committed suicide. They were not able to take Jesus with them to the United States. They found life unbearable – so unbearable they took their own lives.

Another very dear friend was active with his family in Church in Northern China and Taiwan. The children were in the choir and in youth groups, acolytes and leaders. They all went to church every Sunday and to many church functions. Then they left for the United States. The children got married and they had children. They never entered a church. One daughter-in-law, unable to find the peace that passes all understanding, turned toward Zen to find her peace in Buddhist scripture. I am not saying that the reading of Buddhist scripture is wrong, neither do I say that the Buddhist text will not give peace to one's heart. But I feel that they are far away from the community of the Resurrection and from our Lord.

I am certain that the answer to all these spiritual problems can be found in this room. I think the people, both clergy and lay people, as the early Christians thousands of years ago aided their faithful, are destined today to be "carriers of the cross" to these Chinese people world-wide. You must keep the Word of God kindled in man's heart. Behind the cross, two or three days ago, carried by Mr. Jong in St. James' Church, came the choir, the clergy, the Bishop and all of you laymen for the service to open this convocation. It is right here, now.



Mr. Corsa with the Bishop  
in Taichung





Return to Sender if Undelivered

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